

68-73

5 January 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR : Director of Central Intelligence  
SUBJECT : Article in the French magazine  
Planète regarding the book Topaz

1. Mr. Goodwin and I thought you might be interested in an article which appears in the November-December issue of the French magazine Planète. The article is entitled "America declares psychological warfare on France. Her new bomb: The espionage novel." The article is basically an attack on the publication of Topaz.

2. In the beginning of the article the anonymous authors note a pronouncement by John LeCarré that the British Secret Service were using novels of espionage to expose their image to the world and now the Americans have taken up this form of fiction for psychological warfare purposes. The article then goes on to describe some of the events in Topaz with some emphasis on the Pâques case. Of particular interest is the last page of the article (p. 89) which charges that Topaz was a direct CIA operation. It suggests that the author should best stay in the United States; that he would probably be expelled from France if he arrived there and that if he went to the East a fatal accident might occur as the recent affair of Charles Jordan in Prague would show. The authors also suggest that it might be amusing if a French novelist might write a novel based on the role of CIA in the insurrection of the generals in Algiers in 1961 which is considered absolutely proven.

3. If possible, I would appreciate having this magazine back when you have finished with it.

4. DDP/EUR has seen the article.

/S/

Walter Pforzheimer  
Curator  
Historical Intelligence Collection

Attachment

Magazine Planète

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